paediatricians the greatest value must surely be the discussion of controversial topics. The current treatments for bacterial meningitis are debated and referenced, the management of pyloric stenosis in the UK is provocatively criticised but not referenced, and the need for new techniques to discover the harm of recurrent otitis media is considered.

Many abstracts reflect practice and cultural issues in the United States. Tennis and breast feeding mothers due to overzealous use of the breast pump, the perceived attractiveness of preterm infants with cranial moulding, the value of aerobic exercise in delinquent adolescents, may all strike readers in other countries as peculiarly American issues.

The commentaries are filled with observations and commonsense advice which reflect broad experience and extensive knowledge. Both editors write as they think. Time which might have been spent on improving the syntax is devoted to amplifying each abstract with further references on the topic. The anecdotes and scientific information both relevant and informative. I was interested to learn, for example, that Dr Wizell has become a successful urologist, and to discover the odd man out in other fields, a condonhoma in Buffalo, and gonorrhoea (the last because it is the only one you can get rid of!). It has been a pleasure to review and to recommend the yearbook.

S MCKENZIE
Consultant paediatrician


This is a well presented and conveniently sized book intended for 'paediatricians with interests in immunology, haematology, and oncology'. The style is clear and readable, with informative tables and illustrations, and quality printing and paper. In 28 chapters and 500 pages, contemporary practices of paediatric bone marrow transplantation are reviewed by numerous contributors, all from transplant centres in the United States.

There is a thorough explanation of the underlying theory and principle of transplantation, guidelines on supportive care, and, of particular importance in paediatric practice, discussion of long term effects on growth and development. Nine chapters review the world experience of bone marrow transplantation for specific diseases, and in each case there are comments on individual preference and practice within the contributors' own unit. Although this approach leads to some repetition, this is not unduly tiresome. On occasion, recommended practice is contentious, but the reader is encouraged in the introduction to be critical in drawing conclusions.

I have two criticisms of this book. Firstly, as may be the case with any text, the literature of this subject has expanded rapidly resulting in gaps in some of the reviews. Secondly, there is little new information here for the experienced subspecialist. However, this is an informative and well referenced text which will be of considerable interest to all junior staff working in paediatric bone marrow transplantation and so is recommended for the departmental library.

DAVID WEBB
Lecturer in haematology


This 2nd edition of Paediatric Endocrinology in the 'clinical paediatrics' series acknowledges the many recent advances in this field that have necessitated expanded, greatly expanded new version. In the foreword the reader is reminded that 35 years ago paediatric endocrinology in the USA was practiced by only 15 paediatric endocrinologists from two training centres. It is predicted that even 500 certificated paediatric endocrinologists from multiple training centres at present. In addition, the broad base of endocrinology is noted with skills in genetics, nutrition, gynaecology, and auxology being needed in addition to those in paediatric endocrine disease.

The book is divided into six parts dealing with aspects of childhood endocrine disease covering growth and growth disorders, adren al and sexual development, thyroid disorders, problems related to calcium and phosphorus, diabetes mellitus and hypoglycaemia, and other endocrine disorders. The latter section contains seven chapters covering areas such as autoimmune endocrinopathies, neuroendocrine disorders, childhood obesity, and low renin hypertension in childhood.

There is a supplement testing in children which provides extensive details of various endocrine procedures. Several of the protocols noted are for tests that are not used frequently and should provide a useful reference source. The final chapter on reference charts is also extensive but many of them are based on American standards. However, there are useful reference charts for penile length, male size in various stages of puberty, and a useful selection of disease specific charts for conditions such as Down's syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, achondroplasia, and other skeletal dysplasias.

Having used this book as my main paediatric endocrine reference source for several weeks, I am impressed by the breadth of the information provided on several common and rare endocrine topics. This is instructive in the section on growth and growth disorders. The initial chapter on short stature gives a comprehensive review that would be valuable to the non-specialist paediatrician and will be useful for subsequent investigations. This contrasts with three chapters in this section on hereditary growth hormone deficiency, disorders of growth hormone secretion and growth hormone treatment, which are very thorough reviews of topics of great interest to the specialist paediatrician in growth disorders.

The remaining chapters in this section cover areas such as psychosocial short stature, intrauterine growth retardation, failure to thrive, and excessive growth syndromes would be of interest to both specialist and non-specialist paediatricians. Chapter on the psychological issues of short stature covers a subject that is rarely addressed in paediatric endocrine textbooks and provides a comprehensive review of the topic. It is also a reminder that there is a need for appraisal and treatment of short stature has perhaps overlooked and overshadowed the immense psychological problems that can occur with restricted height.

The main sections of the book cover their subjects in both a wide ranging and detailed manner making it difficult to comment on these in a short space. Still calcium and phosphorus section, however, is very worthy of special mention with an excellent review on calcium/phosphate homeostasis followed by a consideration of the problems in the neonate. It also covers parathyroid disorders in children and there is an excellent section on metabolic bone disease in children which is an area that one is often seeking an up to date reference. There are 150 pages approximately devoted to diab etes mellitus in the child and these pages cover the subject extensively with the main chapters on management being from the Pittsburgh team led by Dr Allan Drash, with full discussions on complications, nutrition, treatment of diabetic ketoacidosis, diabetes education, together with the psychosocial aspects of this condition.

This book can be recommended for specialist practitioners in paediatric endocrinology as it provides a modern and wide ranging review of the speciality with extensive references. The introductory and physiological chapters in each section should appeal to the general paediatrician who might feel rather intimidated by the more specialised chapters in each section. There are few large textbooks of paediatric endocrinology but this one could be highly recommended, although its price will probably make it more likely to be found in the paediatric library rather than on the practitioners own book shelf.

C S SMITH
Senior lecturer in child health


This is a second edition of a magnum opus on ear, nose, and throat diseases and allied subjects in children. It is a fairly massive two volume, seven section, 1458 page work, almost entirely from North America. Of the two only the first one is Japanese. The remainder represent individuals with a wealth of otolaryngological and paediatric experience from almost every centre of excellence in the United States. Interestingly, it is said to be aimed at all levels of medical staff from students, through house staff, paediatricians, and otolaryngologists, and there is certainly something for everyone in this edition. There is a bias in relation to otological disease, said by the authors to represent the most commonly occurring conditions treated by those who care for children. In many ways the otological emphasis also reflects the long term and wide ranging interest in ear diseases in children, originating in the Pittsburgh department where the authors are based. Few centres have contributed so much to the literature in relation to children's ear disease as have Professors Bluestone and Paradise. There are new and interesting chapters on the very topical subjects of sleep apnoea and snoring and also on subglottic stenosis and perilymphatic fistulae.

Generally speaking, each chapter is very well referenced and there are special selected references related to key points which are annotated. This provides the reader with a means to explore more fully the surgical management of children of conditions that are discussed in the chapter. There is a comprehensive index for a person looking for specific details, and it appears to be well thought out. Generally speaking, the book is well produced and the editors and authors are to be congratulated.

The one comment that comes to mind is that the book is not cheap and therefore may not be available to all departments. It has been a pleasure to review and recommend this book.